

Engineers at Howard Hanson Dam begin to fill reservoir

*Fill will provide additional water supply, testing opportunities*

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*SEATTLE - The Corps will began slowly allowing water levels to rise within  
Howard Hanson Dam's reservoir in March. This operation mimics normal spring  
operations, but will also allow for testing and in-depth investigations following the  
damage to the dam's right abutment during flooding this past January.*

*While the pool level rises to an elevation of 1,147 feet above sea level, special  
and additional instrumentation will be installed to measure the effects of the pool  
on the right abutment.*

*The Corps operates the Howard Hanson Dam project, which provides flood  
damage reduction to the area as well as additional water supply to Pierce and  
South King counties and eco-system restoration.*

*Additionally, three-fourths of the reservoir's supply will be used to augment  
downstream supplies of water to help endangered species of fish, including  
Chinook and steelhead. Project managers believe that the regulated  
downstream flows will aid spawning and other life cycle events for the fish.*

*Throughout the reservoir fill, as with all project functions, the Corps will  
constantly monitor the operations of the facility. Because of the damage  
sustained to the abutment in January, a higher frequency of monitoring will be  
done and 24-hour monitoring will be done at elevation 1,147 feet.*

*More details and history about Howard Hanson Dam and the right abutment  
issue can be found at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil>.*

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